INCEPTION REPORT

Identification and Preparation of REDD+ Pilot Proposals in Ethiopia

Submitted to

REDD+ Secretariat
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Introduction

Background

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has developed a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy.The CRGE vision aims to build a climate resilient green economy and to make the country carbon neutralby 2025. The Strategy identifies eight key sectors that play key roles in sustainable development:Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), soils, livestock, energy, buildings and cities, industry, transport and health.

REDD+, Agriculture and Livestock are key elements of the CRGE vision, because of the level of emissions under the business as usual scenario (85% of the national GHGS emissions) and their positive contribution to resilience building. To achieve the GoE's CRGE related goals on agriculture, forestry and other land use change (AFOLU), the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MEF) is implementing a National REDD+ Readiness Program. Since 2008, Ethiopia is an active member of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The Government started preparation ofa Readiness Preparation proposal (RPP) in April 2010, led by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The country's final R-pp was endorsed by the FCPF Participants Committee in March 2011.

More recently, in May 2013, the Government of Ethiopia has recognized the Oromia REDD+ program as a national REDD+ pilot program. The Government of Ethiopia would like to pilot more REDD+ projects at smaller scale in other parts ofthe country to draw lessons for shaping the REDD+ strategy currently under preparation. In view of this vision, the REDD+ Secretariat at the Ministry of Environment and Forest invited individual consultants to express interest to take up the responsibility of identifying, screening and subsequent designing of high quality REDD+ pilot projects under the auspices of the REDD+ Readiness Program. Through processes of expression of interest, and follow-up submission of proposals, Dr. Tadesse Woldemariam has been selected as consultant for the assignment.

Objectives

Identification, assessment and prioritization of REDD+ initiatives for potential financial support from the Additional Finance to the REDD+ Secretariat in three regions in the country (Amhara, SNNP and Tigray) and development of project documents for priority REDD+ intervention sites.

Deliverables

The major deliverables of this assignment are:

   a) An enriched standard guideline for screening and selection ofREDD + pilot
   b) Potential REDD+ pilot sites identified
   c) Site maps of potential REDD+ pilots produced
   d) Prioritizedpotential REDD+ pilots according to agreed criteria prepared
   e) 3-4 REDD+ Pilots proposal documents for the selected sites addressing all the issues relevant to start REDD+ project/ program implementation

Current status

The consultant has submitted his expression of interest on April 8, 2014. Based on the expression of interest, MEF requested the consultant to submit full proposal in June 2014. In response, the consultant has submitted technical and financial proposal on June 27, 2014. MEF senior staff and REDD+ secretariat experts provided comments to the consultant and held discussions on July 24, 2014. This inception

report is prepared based on feedback and discussions held with the REDD+ Secretariat. On signing of contracts, the actual activities of the assignment shall commence in mid-August 2014, and is expected to be completed in four and half months.

Methods/ Approach

As it was outlined in the proposal, the consultant will use primary and secondary data, discussions with key stakeholders and experts (MEF, federal government and regional states agencies) and inputs from the target regional states. The methods described below are enriched and modified with feedbacks from the REDD+ Secretariat and MEF senior experts on the proposal.

Approach

In order to accomplish the assignment, it requires analysis of biophysical, socio-economic, and spatial-temporal data. This includes GIS and remote-sensing data analysis along with socio-economic dynamics, especially for land use, forest type and pilot sites mapping. The consultant will closely discuss with staff members of the REDD+ secretariat and other directorates of MEF staff at every stage, including activities planning, field missions and consultation workshop, as their time allows. However, the consultant will take sole responsibility for delivery of the results. The consultant will also engage experts of the proponent regional states, especially on proposals preparation. This helps to build institutional and experts' capacity to take on such assignments internally, and prepare staff for follow up implementation actions.

Methods

Generally, the consultant will use secondary information from existing documents and reports, and primary information from satellite images, field visits, data from regional offices, expert interviews and consultation workshop to accomplish the tasks. Specific activities and methods for each deliverable are the following:

a) **Standard guidelines for screening and selecting REDD+ pilot**: for this, the consultant will extensively review international and regional experiences. Detailed review of the draft REDD+ guideline for selection of a good REDD+ pilot project and develop a methodology for screening and selecting REDD+ pilots, taking into consideration the diversity and unique features of forest types, size of the forest/forested landscape, carbon density, degree of deforestation, leakage risk, regional land and carbon stock degradation threats, socio-economic conditions, means of livelihood, population size, main drivers of deforestation, watershed protection service, biodiversity conservation values, cultural values, potential community benefits, presence of potential partners, and levels of local community organizations (groups, PFM, governance). Draft guideline and methodology for selection shall be presented to a panel of experts of MEF and other key stakeholders (one day workshop). The final guideline will be submitted to MEF after incorporation of expert inputs from the consultation workshop. This workshop shall be conducted in conjunction with the identification workshop (described under deliverable b below).

b) **Identification of Potential REDD+ pilot sites**: will conduct extensive research, including review of the proposals of regional states, identify sites for field visit with MEF experts and conduct field visits and validation; conduct panel discussions with MEF experts on potential sites in three regional states (Amhara, SNNP and Tigray); compile a list of potential sites based on regional proposals, field visits and expert inputs, with detailed description on biophysical and socio-

economic parameters for justification; conduct validation workshop and finalize identification of the potential REDD+ sites.

c) **Produce site maps of potential REDD+ pilots**: to produce detailed project area maps with clear boundaries, land use and tenure, the consultant will use different input map layers, some of which are produced for this purpose. The consultant will collect satellite images and other relevant GIS data/map layers, which include canopy cover map, Friis et al's Atlas of the Potential Vegetation of Ethiopia of 2010, Agro-ecological zones, relief or DEM map, rainfall distribution maps. Beside the site map, separate land use, human and livestock population distribution and vegetation cover map, map of sites with cultural and biodiversity significance within identified project sites shall also be provided as outputs, in case MEF or regional states need such information for further works. The tenure and land use information collected during the field visits shall be used to verify information obtained from secondary sources. The produced maps shall be further verified by experts on validation workshop. Validation workshop for this output will be conducted in conjunction with prioritization and project preparation training workshops described under deliverables d and e below.

d) **Prioritize/Rank REDD+ pilot projects**: the pilot project sites will be ranked on a workshop where key stakeholders and experts participate. A document that identifies criteria and outlines pre-defined ranking criteria based on the approved selection guidelines will be prepared. The working document will be reviewed by MEF experts before presentation on the ranking workshop. Once the potential project sites are ranked within region and nationwide, the outcome document will be prepared and submitted to MEF to make the final decision.

e) **Provide technical assistance to the REDD+ Secretariat and Regional States to prepare project proposals**: The Government of Ethiopia started implementing REDD+ as program at regional states level, the Oromia REDD+ program being the national pilot. **This is a precedence for development of REDD+ programs in other regions**. Based on the REDD+ sites prioritized through the current assignment, the consultant will provide technical support to REDD+ secretariat and respective regional states to prepare proposal that help them launch their REDD+ program, with focuses of piloting at the selected sites. **The project proposal should be comprehensive enough to address all relevant activities to run regional states level REDD+ program**. Hence, the project proposal includes plans and activities descriptions for implementation of readiness activities at selected sites within the three regional states identified for piloting. The project proposal will have detailed descriptions of activities, action plans and budget to carryout keys tasks like (i) the development of functional institutional arrangement for the eventual implementation of the REDD+ activities, including participation and consultation activities aimed at participant groups and affected communities, (ii) assessment of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, (iii) clear definition of activities to address these drivers, (iv) conduct need assessment to identify capacity building activities to improve community livelihood and contribute to emission reduction, (v) preparation of an action plan (budget and schedule) for the implementation of the preparatory activities, (vi) preparation of consultation plan to be conducted with beneficiaries, communities, affected people and user groups, including marginalized or underserved groups, including women; (vii) Develop REL (based on accepted standards) and

estimates potential Emissions Reductions to be generated; (viii) Develop plans for implementation of an MRV system, that includes baseline measures of socio economic and biophysical measures beyond emissions, and includes a defined role for communities members/leaders in understanding and developing the measures to be used; viii) plans for studies as needed to define/describe social and environmental risks from the future implementation of the projects.

The consultant will prepare guidelines for project proposal preparation, provide training on REDD+ related project preparation, with focuses on key issues to be addressed as outlined above, and associated activities and their respective costs. The trainees shall be given 10 days to collect relevant information that are missing to write up the proposals. This will be followed by a project proposals write-up workshop with selected representatives the regions and MEF staff. The consultant will coach MEF and regional state experts that participate on the project proposal, review and improvise the project proposals prepared by the proponents to meet the standard required to receive fund from the Additional Finance. After review by the REDD+ Secretariat/MEF, the proposals shall be reviewed and validated by key stakeholders/ partners.

Expertise of the consultant

The consultant is Dr. Tadesse Woldemariam. Dr. Tadesse has BSc degree in Forestry from Haramaya University (ETHIOPIA), MSc in Forestry- Natural Forest Management from Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences-SLU (SWEDEN), and PhD in Ecology and Natural Resources Management from the University of Bonn (GERMANY). He has over 20 years work experience as a researcher, researcher manager, educator and practitioner in the areas of forestry, biodiversity conservation, carbon projects development, including REDD+. He has conducted a REDD+ feasibility study for Yayu Coffee Forest and prepared Project Idea Note (PIN), prepared carbon stock assessment manual for REDD+, conducted trainings of experts and carbon stock assessment team, led field team and contributed to the preparation of Bale REDD+ PDD preparation. He leads a number of research projects on climate adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity conservation and poverty. He has extensively published on various topics, including impacts of climate change, on biodiversity conservation, sustainable resources management, coffee, forest products certification and access/property rights. His educational background and experiences are highly relevant for this assignment. He has provided consultancy and advisory services on various topics related to natural resources management, carbon projects development, impact assessment and project evaluation. Details of his profile and CV are found in Annex 1.

Timeframe

Based on discussions with REDD+ Secretariat, the timeframe for the assignment has been reduced to four and half months, from the original 6 months. Some activities, especially number of workshops in the original proposal are merged to save time and other resources. The time schedule for completion of the deliverables is presented as follows:

		August		September				October				November				December			
No.	Deliverable	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
a	An enriched standard guideline for screening and selection of REDD + pilot																		
a1	Draft guidelines review & preparation of enriched guidelines	▓	▓																

No.	Deliverable	Aug 3	Aug 4	Sep 1	Sep 2	Sep 3	Sep 4	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4	Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4
a2	Consultation meeting with REDD Secretariat on final draft		█																
b	Potential REDD+ pilot sites identified																		
b1	Review of regional states' proposals		█	█															
b2	Site visits				█	█	█												
b3	Compilation of detailed descriptions and characterization of identified sites					█	█	█	█										
b4	Validation workshop- selection criteria and site description									█									
c	Site maps of potential REDD+ pilots produced																		
c1	Collection of satellite image, GIS map layers			█	█	█	█												
c2	Land use and site maps preparation							█	█	█									
c3	Consultation meeting with REDD Secretariat									█									
d	Rank of potential REDD+ pilots according to agreed criteria prepared																		
d1	Background document and criteria preparation									█	█								
D2	Validate maps, prioritize/rank/site selection and conduct REDD+ Project development training workshops											█							
e	3-4 REDD+ Pilots proposal documents for the selected sites prepared																		
e1	Training materials preparation								█	█	█								
e2	Conduct training on proposal development- *see d2 and above*											█							
e3	Project proposal development workshop- with the consultant coaching experts of proponents preparation													█	█				
e4	Reviewing, Revising, and preparation of the final proposals															█	█	█	
e5	Validation workshop																		█
f	Final Report																		█

Follow-up support

After submission of the final proposals and report, the consultant shall continue to provide support to the REDDD+ Secretariat and proponent regions until the projects are approved and granted fund from the Additional Finance, as required. This includes incorporation of comments and amendments that might be suggested by evaluators of the proposals for funding.